

PRESS RELEASE

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes proposed Economics Minister for Europe

The proposal to appoint a Vice-President of the European Commission to act as Economics Minister for Europe, drawn up yesterday at the meeting of British, French and German leaders in Berlin, has been welcomed by Christoph Leitl, President of EUROCHAMBRES.

Christoph Leitl commented: *"It is basically a good idea to bundle together competencies which have a high impact on each other and are key for the future of the European Union. An Economics Minister for Europe might be able to play a fundamental role in the achievement of the Lisbon target. However, this plan must be complemented by the national and regional implementation of decisions taken on the European level by Member States. If Member States do not implement fully and on time, even the best formation of a new Commission is only false front."*

Furthermore, Mr Leitl called on the European leaders not to put the cart before the horse and outlined the fundamental steps towards a possible nomination of a European Commission Vice-President as the following:

- Appointment of the President of the Commission;
- Definition of the Commission's aims and targets;
- Clarification of whether the Lisbon target is still within reach in its current form and of the timetable and conditions which are the premises for it;
- Finally, decision on the composition of the Commission including the allocation of the portfolios of each Commissioner.

Leitl concluded: *"The appointment of a European Economics Minister is the last step to take in the stepladder of decisions."*

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